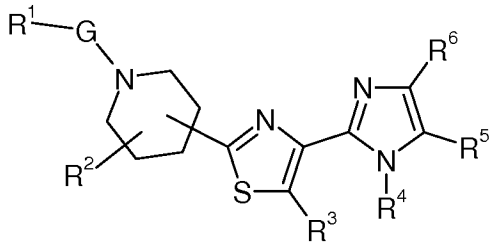
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

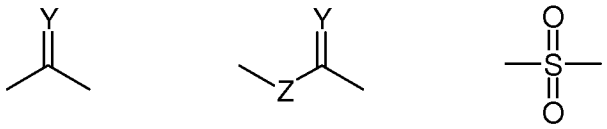
1. (Currently Amended) Compounds of the formula (I):



(I)

in which:

- G represents a bond or a divalent radical chosen from the groups g1, g2 and g3 below:



g1 ; g2 ; g3 ;

- R^1 is chosen from hydrogen and an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, alkylcarbonyl or alkoxycarbonyl radical;
- R^2 and R^3, which may be identical or different, are chosen, independently of each other, from a hydrogen atom, an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl radical and a radical -NRR';
- R^4, R^5 and R^6, which may be identical or different, are chosen, independently of each other, from a hydrogen atom and an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl radical;
- R and R', which may be identical or different, represent, independently of each other, a hydrogen atom or a radical chosen from alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl and heteroaryl; or together form, with the nitrogen atom that bears them, a heterocycle, or together form the double bond of an alken-1-yl radical;

- Y represents an oxygen or sulfur atom; and
- Z represents -NH- or an oxygen atom;

or a geometrical or optical isomer, epimer,tautomer, amine oxide ~~solvate~~, hydrate, pharmaceutically acceptable salt with an acid or a base~~, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof~~.

2. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to Claim 1, in which the radical R^2 represents hydrogen or a geometrical or optical isomer, epimer, tautomer, amine oxide, ~~solvate,~~ hydrate, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt with an acid or a base~~, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof~~.

3. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to Claim 1, in which the radical R^3 represents hydrogen or a geometrical or optical isomer, epimer, tautomer, amine oxide, ~~solvate,~~ hydrate, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt with an acid or a base~~, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof~~.

4. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to Claim 1, in which the radicals R^4 and R^5, independently of each other, represent an alkyl radical,

or a geometrical or optical isomer, epimer, tautomer, amine oxide, ~~solvate,~~ hydrate, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt with an acid or a base~~, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof~~.

5. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to Claim 1, in which the radical R^6 represents an aryl or heteroaryl radical

or a geometrical or optical isomer, epimer, tautomer, amine oxide, ~~solvate,~~ hydrate, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt with an acid or a base~~, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof~~.

6. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to Claim 1, in which in which the thiazolyl radical is branched in position 3 or in position 4 of the piperidine nucleus, or a geometrical or optical isomer, epimer, tautomer, amine oxide, ~~solvate,~~ hydrate, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt with an acid or a base~~, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof~~.

7. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to Claim 1, in which the thiazolyl radical is branched in position 4 of the piperidine nucleus, or a geometrical or optical isomer, epimer, tautomer, amine oxide, ~~solvate,~~ hydrate, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt with an acid or a base~~, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof~~.

8. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to Claim 1, in which G represents the radical g1,

or a geometrical or optical isomer, epimer, tautomer, amine oxide, ~~solvate,~~ hydrate, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt with an acid or a base~~, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof~~.

9. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to Claim 1, in which G represents the radical g1 and Y represents an oxygen atom,

or a geometrical or optical isomer, epimer, tautomer, amine oxide, ~~solvate,~~ hydrate, pharmaceutically acceptable salt with an acid or a base~~, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof~~.

10. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to Claim 1, in which the radicals R^2 and R^3 each represent a hydrogen atom, the radicals R^4 and R^5 represent, independently of each other, an alkyl radical, the radical R^6 represents an aryl or heteroaryl radical, the thiazolyl radical is branched in position 4 of the piperidine nucleus, and G represents the radical g1 in which Y represents an oxygen atom,

or a geometrical or optical isomer, epimer, tautomer, amine oxide, ~~solvate,~~ hydrate,

pharmaceutically acceptable salt with an acid or a base~~, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof~~.

11. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to Claim 1, in which R^1 represents an aryl radical, especially phenyl, substituted by one or more aryl and/or alkyl radicals

or a geometrical or optical isomer, epimer, tautomer, amine oxide, ~~solvate,~~ hydrate, pharmaceutically acceptable salt with an acid or a base~~, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof~~.

12. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to Claim 1, in which R^1 represents a biphenyl radical, optionally substituted by one or more alkyl radicals, preferably methyl, ethyl or propyl, and/or with a perhaloalkyl or perhaloalkoxy radical,

or a geometrical or optical isomer, epimer, tautomer, amine oxide, ~~solvate,~~ hydrate, pharmaceutically acceptable salt with an acid or a base~~, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof~~.

13. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to Claim 1, in which G represents the radical g1, with Y representing an oxygen atom, R^1 represents a biphenyl radical, optionally substituted by one or more alkyl radicals, preferably methyl, ethyl or propyl, and/or a trifluoromethyl or trifluoromethoxy radical,
the other substituents being as defined above,

or a geometrical or optical isomer, epimer, tautomer, amine oxide, ~~solvate,~~ hydrate, pharmaceutically acceptable salt with an acid or a base~~, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof~~.

14. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to Claim 1, which is:

- {4-[4-(1,5-dimethyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-imidazol-2-yl)thiazol-2-yl]piperid-1-yl}(4'-trifluoromethylbiphenyl-2-yl)methanone;
- {4-[4-(1-ethyl-5-methyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-imidazol-2-yl)thiazol-2-yl]piperid-1-yl}(4'-

trifluoromethylbiphenyl-2-yl)methanone;

- {3-[4-(1-ethyl-5-methyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-imidazol-2-yl)thiazol-2-yl]piperid-1-yl}(4'-trifluoromethylbiphenyl-2-yl)methanone;

- {4-[4-(1-ethyl-5-methyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-imidazol-2-yl)thiazol-2-yl]piperid-1-yl}(6-methyl-4'-trifluoromethoxybiphenyl-2-yl)methanone;

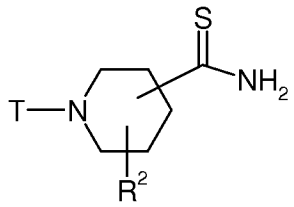
- {4-[4-(1-ethyl-5-methyl-4-(pyrid-3-yl)-1*H*-imidazol-2-yl)thiazol-2-yl]piperid-1-yl}(4'-trifluoromethylbiphenyl-2-yl)methanone;

- {4-[4-(1-ethyl-5-methyl-4-(pyrid-2-yl)-1*H*-imidazol-2-yl)thiazol-2-yl]piperid-1-yl}(4'-trifluoromethylbiphenyl-2-yl)methanone;

- {4-[4-(1-ethyl-5-methyl-4-(pyrid-2-yl)-1*H*-imidazol-2-yl)thiazol-2-yl]piperid-1-yl}(6-methyl-4'-trifluoromethoxybiphenyl-2-yl)methanone;

or a geometrical or optical isomer, epimer, tautomer, amine oxide, ~~solvate,~~ hydrate, pharmaceutically acceptable salt with an acid or a base~~, or pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof~~.

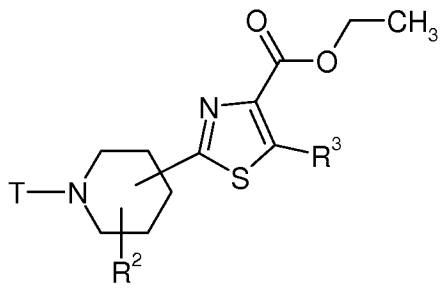
15. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of a compound according to Claim 1, comprising reacting a compound of the formula (II):



(II)

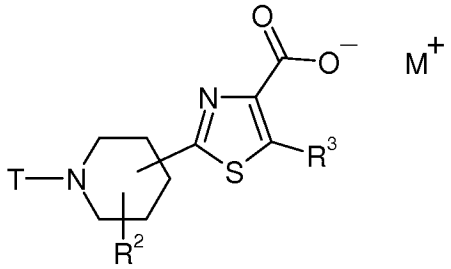
in which T represents a labile protecting group, with ethyl R^3-bromopyruvate, in a polar solvent, in the presence of an excess of base, at a suitable temperature, for a period ranging from 1 to 40 hours ,

so as to form a thiazolyl ring and a compound of the formula (III):



(III),

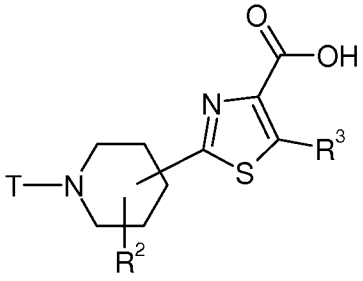
saponifying the compound of the formula (III) with an alkali metal or alkaline-earth metal hydroxide base, in polar medium, at room temperature, for a period of 1 to 12 hours, so as to form the salt of the formula (IV):



(IV),

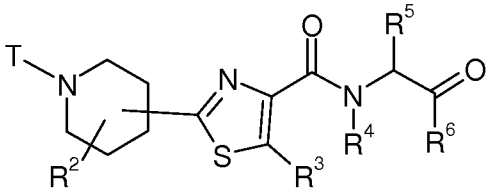
in which M^+ represents the alkali metal or alkaline-earth metal cation derived from the base that is used for the saponification reaction,

hydrolyzing the compound of the formula (IV) to a compound of the formula (V):



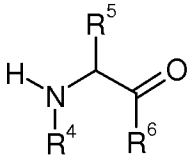
(V),

converting the compound of the formula (V) to a corresponding amide of the formula (VI):



(VI),

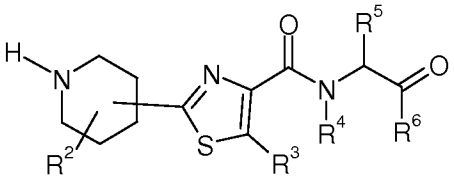
via the action of an amine of the formula (VIa):



(VIa),

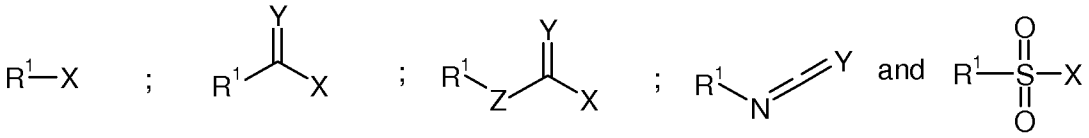
in the presence of a base, and a catalyst, in a polar aprotic solvent, at room temperature, for 1 to 50 hours,

deprotecting of the amine function of the piperidine ring of VI, via the action of an organic or mineral acid, in dichloromethane or dioxane medium, at room temperature, for a few minutes to several hours, to give the compound of the formula (VII):



(VII),

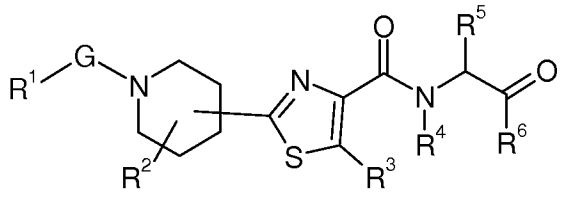
subjecting said compound VIII to the action of



in which X represents a halogen atom,

in the presence of a base, and a catalyst, in a polar aprotic solvent, at room temperature, for 1 to 50 hours,

to give the compound of the formula (VIII):



(VIII),

and subjecting VIII to a cyclization reaction to form the imidazole ring, in the presence of a cyclizing agent, acting as a solvent, at a suitable temperature for 5 and 15 minutes,

to give the compound of the formula (I) as defined in Claim 1.

16. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of the formula (I) according to Claim 1, in combination with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable vehicles.

17. (Previously Presented) A method for the treatment of diabetes-related hypertriglyceridaemia, hypercholesterolaemia, dyslipidaemia, or for prevention or treatment of obesity, comprising administering to a host in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.